

Appl. No. 10/666,301
Amdt dated Dec. 13, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Sep. 16, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. – 39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) A method of creating a perforation in a heart septum comprising the steps of:

applying a form of energy to a perforation device positioned at a desired location of a heart septum to create a perforation at said desired location, wherein said perforation device comprises an elongate member having a proximal region and a distal region and wherein said distal region comprises a portion fixed in a desired curve shape; and

advancing a distal tip of the device through the septum, such that said distal tip is automatically directed away from cardiac structures while being advanced, due to the shape of the curved portion;

whereby said distal tip is directed away from said cardiac structures in order to decrease risk of unwanted injury.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein said perforation device

comprises a pressure sensing mechanism for sensing pressure at said distal tip and wherein the method comprises monitoring said pressure to indicate a location of said distal tip.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein said perforation device comprises an orientation indicator for determining a direction of said distal tip and wherein the method comprises monitoring said orientation indicator to advance said distal tip through said septum in a desired direction.
46. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 40, further comprising the steps of inserting said perforation device into a guiding catheter and advancing said perforation device through said guiding catheter within a patient's vasculature, wherein said distal region conforms to a shape of said guiding catheter when inserted into said guiding catheter.
47. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 46, wherein said distal region further comprises a substantially straight portion distal to said curved portion and wherein the method comprises a further step of advancing said substantially straight portion of said distal region out of a tip of said guiding catheter in order to position said device at said desired location for creating a perforation.
48. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 40 wherein the energy is in the form of electrical current energy in the radio frequency range and wherein the energy is applied to ionize a conductive medium on top of a target tissue resulting in a low temperature molecular disintegration.
49. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 40, wherein the energy is in the form of mechanical energy and wherein said perforation device comprises a sharp distal tip.

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50. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 40 wherein said desired location comprises cellular tissue and wherein sufficient energy is delivered to the tissue so as to cause cell lysis to occur.

51. – 79. (Cancelled)